In the Conference of Chief Minister/Power Minister held in March, 2001, it was resolve inter alia that commercial viability has to be achieved indistribution in 2-3 years through any or all of the following:

- Creating Profit Centres with full accountability
- Handing over of local distribution to Panchayats/Local Bodies/ Franchises/Users Association, wherever necessary
- Privatisation of distribution
- Or any other means.

The Distribution Policy Committee constituted by the Government of India under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Power) in its report, taking into account the recommendations of Kanungo Committee, has recommended, inter alia, that:

(i) For privatisation to succeed, support of the State Government in the transition period has to be provided by ensuring that:-
   - Government departments/agencies and municipal bodies are able topay for their electricity bills and accept the commercial discipline that electricity cannot be supplied without timely payment.
   - Governance and law enforcement support is provided for assisting the privatized utilities in bringing about the necessary change in deep-rooted attitudes among their employees as well as customers so that all energy flows are metered and audited and supply discontinued in the absence of timely payment.

(ii) The various stakeholders including the State Government need to acknowledge that privatisation may not result in commercially viable entities immediately and there would be a transition phase.

Hydro-electric projects in U.P.

†865. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of hydro-electric projects being implemented in State of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) the period, determined for the completion of these projects; and

(c) the effective steps being taken by Government to complete the projects of the State?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) No hydro-electric project (above 25 MW) is presently under implementation in Uttar Pradesh.

Land acquired by the NTPC in Orissa

866. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the total areas of land acquired by the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) from villagers in the State of Orissa for its thermal power plant;

(b) whether the NTPC has given any compensation to the land oustees;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken to pay suitable compensation to these land oustees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) A total of 3684 acres of land for setting up Talcher Kaniha Project (2x500 MW + 4x500 MW) of NTPC in Orissa in the district of Angul was acquired out of which 1497 acres consists of private land which has been acquired from villagers.

(b) Land acquired for the entire project was acquired by the Government of Orissa as per the Land Acquisition Act. The compensation amount as decided by the State Government, was deposited by NTPC with Revenue Department of Government of Orissa (Special Land Acquisition Officer) for disbursement to the land oustees.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

(d) The compensation rates for the land and other properties were fixed by the State Government as per the Land Acquisition Act. An exclusive cell created for the purpose by the Government of Orissa undertakes, the disbursement of amount to all oustees as required.